

IAEA/ANL Interregional Training Course



Technical and Administrative Preparations Required for Shipment of Research Reactor Spent Fuel to Its Country of Origin

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Lecture L.6.2

Process for Return of Foreign Research Reactor TRIGA Spent Nuclear Fuel to the Department of Energy Idaho

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PROCESS FOR RETURN OF FOREIGN RESEARCH REACTOR (FRR) TRIGA SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL(SNF) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IDAHO

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INTRODUCTION

- Background
- Site Visits (preliminary contact)
- Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Data Request (Appendix A) detailed information
- Site Assessment detailed SNF examination with team of technical personnel
- Contracting formalize roles, responsibilities and requirements for all involved parties
- Transportation Services utilize Savannah River Site (SRS) transportation services contract
- Shipment Scheduling team with SRS to maximize effort

BACKGROUND

• Per the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), 19 countries identified with TRIGA SNF that may choose to participate in the program

High income economy countries:

AustriaFinlandGermanyItalyJapanTaiwan, ROCUnited Kingdom

Other countries:

BangladeshBrazilIndonesiaMalaysiaMexicoPhilippinesRomaniaSloveniaSouth KoreaThailandTurkeyZaire

- 28 total reactor facilities
- Source of this criteria: Record of Decision for theFEIS on a Proposed Nuclear Weapon Nonproliferation Policy Concerning FRR SNF

PRELIMINARY SITE VISITS

- Initiate contacts with reactor operators and identify key personnel (e.g., government agencies, etc.) not all cases
- Review SNF data available
- Review reactor site and infrastructure capabilities
- Review SNF storage facility and spent fuel condition
- Exchange information regarding DOE program and reactor site needs (scheduling)

SNF DATA REQUEST

- Questionnaire was sent in December, 1996
- Eventually completed Appendix A of the contract/agreement
- Provides detailed information used for:
 - revising safety documentation at eventual storage facility
 - ensuring satisfaction of transport cask license
 - determines any preshipment treatment or packaging requirements
 - identifies specific handling/shipping issues
- Helps define safeguards and security requirements
- Helps refine shipping schedule
- Several months before shipment

DETAILED SITE ASSESSMENT

- Team of SNF technical personnel from the INEL, cask vendor, and shipping agent
- Detailed fuel examination as necessaryMeet storage facility acceptance
 - Video examination to determine any failed/defective fuel
 - Water quality testing or review existing data
 - Determine if fuel needs to be canned/recanned
- Detailed facility and infrastructure assessment
 - Adequate crane capacity
 - Adequate room/space to maneuver loading equipment
 - Infrastructure adequacy for heavy loads
- Finalize Appendix A information as necessary

CONTRACTING

- Formalize roles and responsibilities for all involved entities
- Identify any special requirements which were identified in detailed site assessment
- Standard contract clauses
- Fees (if any)

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- SRS will be selecting a transportation services contractor in the near future
- INEL will utilize SRS contract

SHIPMENT SCHEDULING

- Review of the questionnaire will establish tentative shipping dates and special needs
- Upon satisfactory receipt of detailed SNF data, shipping dates will be established
- Maximize shipping effort to load ships may require minor schedule adjustment
- Team-up with SRS to maximize transportation systems (casks, ships, etc.)

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